

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: February 23, 2005

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:13 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:55p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman  
Greg Bowes  
Vernon Brown  
Sherron Franklin  
Lynn McWhirter  
William Oliver  
Lincoln Plowman

#### Absent Members

Scott Schneider

### AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 720, 2004 - reappoints Tom Alvarez to the Animal Care and Control Board  
"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 676, 2004 - amends the Code to require that egress from exit stairwells not be restricted on intervening floors  
"Do Pass as Amended"

Vote: 7-0

BADGES WITHOUT BORDERS PRESENTATION – Deputy Chief James Reno, Indianapolis Police Department

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, February 23, 2005. Chairwoman Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. with the following members present: Greg Bowes, Vernon Brown Sherron Franklin, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, Lincoln Plowman. Absent was Scott Schneider. Councillor Marilyn Pfisterer was also in attendance.

### PROPOSAL NO. 720, 2004 - reappoints Tom Alvarez to the Animal Care and Control Board

Tom Alvarez, Animal Care and Control Board, stated that his first year on the board was very educational, and he is very anxious to serve again. Mr. Alvarez stated that Animal Care Control is a quality of life issue that affects everyone in the City of Indianapolis, and he has recognized there are many problems that need to be addressed.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to send Proposal No. 720, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

### PROPOSAL NO. 676, 2004 - amends the Code to require that egress from exit stairwells not be restricted on intervening floors

Councillor Pfisterer, sponsor of the proposal, provided an amendment to committee members. She stated that the amendment adds the following language: "Existing locked stairway doors with locking hardware will not require immediate retrofit, but as any change is made to an existing stairway door, hardware, frame and / or jamb, the door lock shall be made compliant with this section". She added that this was agreed upon by the Marion County Fire Chiefs' Association and the Fire Prevention Committee.

Councillor McWhirter moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to amend Proposal No. 676, 2005 by the change in the language in Sec. 591-433. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councillor Bowes asked if this amendment is a result of the Fire Chief's Association and the Fire Prevention Association's further review. Councillor Pfisterer answered in the affirmative.

James Greeson, Chief of Indianapolis Fire Department, (IFD) stated that this is a life safety issue and IFD supports this ordinance as amended. Joe Olofson, President of the Marion County Fire Chiefs' Association, stated that they are in support of this proposal and urged the Council to pass this ordinance.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked if there are any other cities that have adopted a similar ordinance. Councillor Pfisterer stated that there are a number of cities that have similar ordinances but there are varying degrees of enforcement in the different cities.

Councillor McWhirter moved, seconded by Councillor Brown, to send Proposal No. 676, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

#### BADGES WITHOUT BORDERS PRESENTATION

Deputy Chief James Reno, Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) explained the key points of Exhibit A: [Clerks note: Exhibit A is on file with the original set of minutes.]

Chief Reno stated that the need for Public Safety officers to receive Spanish language training has evolved greatly.

- Last year there were over 5,000 radio calls for Spanish translations by the different Public Safety departments.
- The main goals are to provide safety for the public safety officials, to better serve the Latino community, and to improve relationships between the public safety sector and our community.
- This training program targets Emergency, Intermediate, and Conversational Spanish classes.
- This training program involves going to Mexico and training with the Latino Public safety officers.

Chief Reno stated that Badges Without Borders exists to enhance the life of the community and public safety personnel through Spanish language education, cultural training, and the development of mutual respect. He added that reports from the recruits have been extremely positive. These recruits are using the training as soon as they hit the streets, and they are becoming more fluent.

Councillor Oliver asked if the funding for this program is generated outside of the City's budget and also, if this training was mandatory for new recruits. Chief Reno answered in the affirmative.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the Marion County Sheriff's Department and other fire departments within Marion County are able to take part in this training. Chief Reno stated that he has been in contact with other public safety officials around Marion County and has been giving information regarding the training.

Councillor Bowes stated his support for this program.

#### CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman  
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

MMA/rjp